

Retirement Board said. If they really were neutral but being Public Employees, some of them being under the Legislature, I would really like to know if the Public Employees really did have a stand on this, for or against, and I can see the position they are in where they would have to come in and say we are neutral but, and I just wish somebody were here from the Retirement Committee that could tell us what the Public Employees had to say.

SPEAKER NICHOL: I don't see any volunteers, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Well, I shall abstain from voting on this, then, until I find out what the Public Employees' position was. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Harris, then Senator Wesely.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to address the question of Senator Higgins in two ways. One is we will provide a transcript of their testimony, and as I think back now, I think that they were in the position that sometimes we find ourselves in in our personal life and that is why give up something readily when you don't have to, or why promote the idea of giving up something. Here is a possible benefit through the system that might someday be there. It has never been asked for. It has never occurred. Why close that door, and yet they can see the reason why we want to close that door because there is a possibility that it might happen. As I said the most meritorious part of this bill is that it might be of some significant or minor savings to the state in the future. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR HARRIS: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Higgins, I would try and...I didn't quite catch your question, but if you don't mind, I would like to try and quickly answer it. If you are looking at the sheet and you were questioning the Public Employees Retirement Board, Jim Powers was there just as a technical person to talk about the language and the interpretation of it. They see a need to clear this up too because what it says is a ridiculous situation might develop if we don't pass this bill where a judge who comes in at 40 or 50 to be a judge, who was in the military service at 21 or 22 for a